

Who created the English Language Development (ELD) Standards?

The WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards are the foundation for the ACCESS for ELLs® assessment and all WIDA resources. These Standards have been adapted by TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) as the national model and are used by thousands of educators to set curricular goals, plan differentiated lessons, and measure student language growth. The Standards are available at <http://www.wida.us/standards/eld.aspx>.



Information for Families 2014-15



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What is ACCESS for ELLs®?

ACCESS for ELLs® is a test that measures how well students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 are able to understand and use English. It stands for **A**ssessing **C**omprehension and **C**ommunication in **E**nglish **S**tate-to-**S**tate for English Language Learners. This test was developed by a nationally-respected organization, the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Consortium. It shapes how Wisconsin public schools teach English language learners (ELLs) to speak, read, and write in English.

Students who take ACCESS for ELLs® are asked to speak and write. Students taking the test in Grades 1 to 12 are asked to answer questions by speaking individually to a teacher giving the test. Students also work in small groups to write their answers to some questions.

Each question a student answers helps teachers understand how well the student speaks and writes English socially and in different subject areas. Students are asked questions that show how well they know English in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

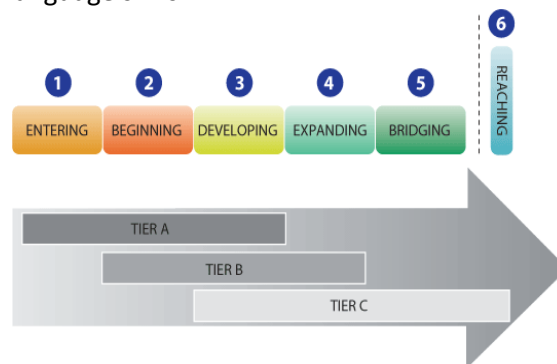
The goal of ELL programs is for students to be able to participate in classroom learning and discussions, and on state tests, without additional support.

Tests are divided into five grade-level clusters:

- Kindergarten
- Grades 1-2
- Grades 3-5

- Grades 6-8
- Grades 9-12

Within each grade-level cluster (except Kindergarten), students will be asked to take ACCESS for ELLs® at one of three levels, or tiers: Tier A (beginning), Tier B (intermediate), or Tier C (advanced). This keeps the test shorter and more appropriately targets each student's range of language skills.



How are the test results used?

The ACCESS for ELLs® test allows educators, students, and families to follow students' progress. The test

- provides information that teachers can use to enhance instruction and learning for ELLs.
- identifies what level of English language skill each student has.
- lets teachers know when students have learned English well enough to participate in classroom instruction on their own, without being in the ELL program.
- lets school districts know how well their ESL/bilingual programs are meeting students' needs.

What type of scores will be provided?

Five different ACCESS for ELLs® score reports are provided to districts:

- Parent/Guardian Report
- Teacher Report
- Student Roster Report
- School Frequency Report
- District Frequency Report

The scores will tell parents and teachers what level of English proficiency, or usage, each student has. Each student will be identified as an English language user at one of these levels:

1. Entering
2. Emerging
3. Developing
4. Expanding
5. Bridging
6. Reaching

A description of each proficiency level is available at

http://www.wida.us/standards/RG_Performance%20Definitions.pdf.

Where can I find sample test questions?



Sample test questions from the ACCESS for ELLs® are available at http://www.wida.us/assessment/access/access-sample_items.pdf.

The sample questions can help parents understand the item types, format, English Language Development Standards, and the general look and feel of the test. The sample questions can also help students become familiar with the test before they take it.